

Development of the GVRD's New Air Quality Management Plan

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The GVRD's 1994 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) has guided efforts to improve air quality in the Lower Fraser Valley over the past decade. A number of AQMP initiatives, such as the AirCare program, have yielded significant emission reductions. However, current ambient air quality objectives are still being exceeded on occasion. In addition, emissions of primary particulate matter, a number of ozone and particulate matter precursors, and greenhouse gases are predicted to increase significantly over the next 15-20 years as a result of growth in population, international trade and transportation. If we conduct "business as usual" and allow these emissions to increase, ambient air quality within the Lower Fraser Valley will deteriorate. With input from various stakeholders and government agencies on both sides of the border, the GVRD has developed proposals for a new AQMP. The new Plan will be strategic in nature, recognizing sustainability principles, new knowledge about air quality and health impacts, and concern about global climate change. As air pollution does not respect jurisdictional boundaries, the AQMP will call for the GVRD to partner with other government organizations on both sides of the border to improve air quality within the Lower Fraser Valley Airshed.